

To
Doctor Jacob Chewersell
of West Chester
In the County of Chester
This Dissertation

Is gratefully Dedicated, as a small but genuine
tribute of respect, not only for his talents as an
enlightened and successful Practitioner of
Medicine. But for the amiable Qualities
which he possesses as a man, and for the
many private marks of disinterested Friend-
ship and esteem which he has so often con-
ferred upon his sincere Friends and late Pa-
tient.

The Author

In
Inaugural Dissertation
on
Conception

The subject of this dissertation is a difficult one as the multitude of Physiologists who have for centuries in this field can best bear witness to the difficulty of this pursuit and the confusing genius of the illustrious Harvey whose inadequate to a full exposition of the uses of the blood tails in vain in the mysterious researches of generation. The philosopher who trusting by experiments when pointed to object confessed immortality in his mind when presented to another reduced him to with contemporary reputation. It is not a view of unfolding this mysterious subject to have shown it as a fit one for this Dissertation but with a view from the few remarks I shall offer some more happy may overcome the prejudices of the human mind and solve the difficulty so that can doubt the truth of it and one of present

Numerous are the theories that have been
advanced on this subject according to Drelin-
court a teacher of Breuhauser he collected no
less than two hundred and sixty two hypo-
theses on this subject But I shall content
myself with mentioning a few of them
as some of them are so ridiculous as to be
wholly unworthy of criticism as the much
beloved Professor Dr. Chapman justly observed.
It is necessary gentlemen that I should be
understood (before I go further) that by im-
ception I mean that power by which the
instruments of the father is first formed

The most of them have contended that
the semen is thrown into the uterus by im-
pulsion from the Penis which I shall content in
reverse the case
It among those who suppose that the Father
is formed exclusively by the Female, and that
it only wants the stimulus of the male semen
to excite it into greater action I may mention
Harvey Walter Galvani and Bennett I shall
particularly speak of Galvani as he appears
to be its chief supporter he proved what he
thought to sufficient to satisfy the mind of
the Physiologist that the Father was formed

or that it existed in miniature in the
before impregnation and that the male
was only of use to stimulate the little being
greater action for he infers from their move-
is use they have life and motion but in
very languid manner from the slow
of the fluids

I think his opinion unfounded or a
romantic doctrine as their increasing in num-
not infer that they have life or motion
themselves. But it only proves that nature
endowed those animals that is there are
that have their eggs impregnated often
are discharged from their bodies as Dr
Newt which he experimented upon in
persuade of increasing their eggs about
time of their being discharged from the
One of all their eggs had been of that in-
their maturity it certainly would have
of great inconvenience to them from the
now use and life would have been
burthen rather than a pleasure to
but he says it is in a very languid
ner from the slow motion of
fluids

5
I think from these words (slow motion of the fluids)
he must have seen all the animal functions going
on in a regular manner only in a slower grade
of action but gentlemen he mentions in another
place that they were in the centre of two con-
cave membranes the environment when forced
discharged a fluid as limpid as water and
which is sufficient proof that he never saw
any motion of the fluids.

But if his opinion is correct the European
and African copulating together their offspring
must either be the colour of the one or the
other which we know is not the case for
their offspring is a Mulatto.

Likewise the Op and the Nave producing
a Mule these cases show that it does not exist
in immaturity in the ovaries before impregnation.

2^d Linnæus having discovered animalcula
in the male semen he raised a new theory
which is that the male semen being emitted
it from thence passed into the Fallopian tubes
and by those tubes upon the ovaries there
a general engorgement takes place in which
all are slain save only one who master of
the field of battle finds the triumph of his

6 History within the dream that has been
passed for him it being now pregnant
this little animal is squeezed from its
through the coat of the paracium and as
forth is seized by the funiculus which con-
it into the tube and by this tube into the

This theory however ingenious I think
I shall be attended with a circumstance
into inexplicable namely the manner in which
animalcula gain admission into the dream
But if animalcula exist as he pretends
discovered with a rounded head a taper
tail and moving with rapidity (which
nothing more than these animalcula
seen in other fluids of the body) nature
have been very profuse in how operate
to produce so many creatures for no purpose
to decay

2^d The seed never penetrates the cavity of
uterus let alone the fallopian tube but
seems has a considerable vegetile power
evident by the force with which the seed
discharged but in the act of coition it
lose most of its vegetile power from the
suck with which it is grasped by the

7 wholly suspended we see likewise in the
tenacity and weight of the semen that it cannot
be ejected to any distance and likewise the
muscles may become impelled in their opera-
tion as well as structures in the wreaths. There
is however a barrier in the vagina contri-
buting to the same end namely the rugae on
its inner surface. But let us suppose for a
moment that it was coated as far as the
os tinea how could it enter the uterus for in
the virgin uterus it is not much larger than
the funtula and is not on an axis with the
vagina either inclining to one side or the other
or backwards therefore he must be a marvellous
man that could hit so small an object of his
sperm which way it inclined unless we agree
with Plato who compared this organ to an
animal living within another animal controlling
all the actions of the living economy, burning
to stir itself with the liquor of the male and
digesting it to form a new individual but
this is not all the os tinea is filled up with
a thick gelatinous matter for the most part
capable of considerable resistance where it
is wanting as is generally the case in the

organ returns the hard unyielding lips of
 it is nearly closed. Nor are there the
 barriers to the passage of the seed for in
 conimpregnated returns the coat in the
 of the uterus will scarcely admit a com-
 sized probe besides it is full of mucus
 along its whole length and between
 there are glands secreting a mucus abun-
 dantly calculated for the purpose of additional
 tion this might be considered as sufficing
 without mentioning those malconform-
 of the parts and the experiments of H.
 which shall be mentioned hereafter
 Dr. W. D. Buffon raised a new theory
 that the male ~~seed~~ female furnish
 what is necessary for impregnation. The
 seed says he is nothing but an assemblage
 of organic particles extracted from all parts
 of the body of which the form as it were
 many epitomes. Their organical particles
 which he calls living and active because
 their continual motion are so shaped &
 formed that they cannot unite and
 coalesce but with the particles sent from
 same part of the other sex.

That is to say that the particles furnished by the eye of the man cannot be caught and united but by those furnished by the eye of the woman and so of other parts

The formation of the sex not being explicable by this ingenious theory the author's imagination has supplied it, by supposing that the sex was formed according to the quantity sent from either of them if the male sent the greatest quantity it turned out a boy if the female a girl

Reason rejects a theory which gives no explanation of the production of the placenta and membranes that cover the foetus It is moreover directly disproved by the good conformation of children born of parents who not but failing to have sixteen limbs or organs could not supply the proper molecules for their formation in the child

I will now mention some malformations in the female organs of generation which will prove that the foetus is not formed according to either of these opinions

- 1st Mawriceau relates a case in his 189th Observ of a woman who conceived and was

10 delivered of a child although her hymen
had not been broken in coition

• 2^d Ruysch has given another case where
a woman in labour whose hymen was
and prevented delivery of the child by
head it was distended an incision was
cautiously made through it he perceived
another thick membrane farther in the
vagina which being opened the woman was

• 3^d Veldanus gives another case nearly
similar to the two preceding namely
young woman at Paris who being married
could not admit the embraces of her
husband for a divorce but as she was
found herself to be with child a midwife
called in who pronounced her not
with child and said it was as impossible
felt a basin by throbbing at the os
Surgeon being called he agreed with
midwife but others being called they
found a thick membrane it being divided
by proper means kept open the husband
satisfied and the woman was in due
time safely delivered of a full grown child

These cases without mentioning other
of the same nature for the three preceding

27 Now the experiment Chinese have
conception cannot take place according to
of their doctrines

Let having supposed that the semen
has of absorption and carried into the
lution and by the spermatic artery to the
ure to give them greater stimulus as he
posed to be sent in mixture with
was the case it must become purified
for it would enter the circulation as it
goes through the capillaries and
into the circulation. and I believe we
no account of any foreign matter
detected in the urine we will suppose
a movement that the semen does not
circulation and retains its stimulus
become perfectly mixed with the blood
it would enter the urea it would enter
to the uterus but according to Dr. Keen
Chapman and others the semen is
ble in water until it has lost its
or that gelatinous portion then
the circulation unless it is
would not improve them but not
the semiconcrete portion of the semen

It is not a new thing to find that
the same thing is the same thing
in the same way. It is not a new thing
but the same thing has been stated in the
last as it has been in the first. It is not a new thing
but the same thing has been stated in the first.

It is not a new thing to find that
the same thing is the same thing
in the same way. It is not a new thing
but the same thing has been stated in the
last as it has been in the first. It is not a new thing
but the same thing has been stated in the first.

The opinion certainly is not correct in the
a nothing similar to this in the same way
even that a small number of people
for 10 years without ever being called into
action or in fact no action being required of
them for the first time in experience that
there is no action until about the time of
revolution when the people become more
have a person reasoning a person would
suppose that there would be a person
become more in the same way. It is not a new thing
but the same thing has been stated in the first.

has been measured in the same way
as the other, and we must not
the same tendency to have any effect in
of maladjustment. It thus is not as if
men must become diseased in the body
from passing this it would be all right
as it happens a considerable way
in about accordance to Hall's account
to find further of it to produce instead
I am now convinced that there is a
subject as he pointed to his hand
It is not that it is a short mention
of the position which I believe is
the much believed position I believe
than all and looked to something
toward for an explanation in these
times, I am now convinced in the course
part which I shall not omit

It is because the reason has not yet found
has to create the sympathetic relation
between the great excitement of the
and the effort of blood to the
pleasure of motion together with the
of the heart by the time or action
of the system.

15 I infer that this excitement does take place from those cases of sterility deepening or debility which being removed by proper remedies the female conceives.

2^d I infer it and that it is necessary to the operation from the circumstances related by Mr Cusack and of the rabbitkeepers knowing their time for coition by lifting up their tail and opening their vaginas which is as black as ink from the largeness of the vessels with blood.

3^d From those cases of nymphomania which arise from an inflammation of some part of the organs of generation which being removed the disease is removed.

These circumstances I think sufficiently prove that it does not ~~take~~ place merely from the stimulus of the semen but requires the aid of the great excitement of the parts caused by the afflux of blood to them by the pleasure of coition together with the friction of the parts or either of them.

Then I may say by the excitement of the parts the semen is able to stimulate

16 the vagina and by the consent of parts
or force and cavity of the uterus and by
same cause the ovarian vessels enlarge
from the first rudiments of the foetus

Conceptions

James

Sam^l. M. Puckett.

admitted March 16. 1819

John M. Pickett.

1871